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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 18, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON ALTMIRE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Solomon Schiff, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami Beach, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Creator, bestow Thy blessings upon those assembled here, who have accepted the sacred responsibility to legislate within these hallowed Halls, to preserve and foster the noble ideals of our sanctified democracy.

Grant that these deliberations will be ruled by wisdom, purpose, and dedication. The Prophet Malachai said, "Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us all? Why do we deal treacherously, every man against his brother?"

Help us, O God, to eradicate anger, hunger and bigotry from our human family. Imbue us with the commitment to sow the seeds that will turn selfishness into civility, hatred into harmony, loathing into love, and bigotry into blessing. Help us always to work for the lost, the least, the last and the lonely.

May we remain committed to work with renewed energy to elevate the status and dignity of all of Thy children, so that all can enjoy the blessings and benefits of our bountiful society. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my good friend, Rabbi Solomon Schiff, for the uplifting prayer that he delivered for all of us today, as well as for his tireless effort to strengthen our religious communities in my home district of south Florida.

Rabbi Schiff serves as the Director of Chaplaincy Emeritus for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. In this role, Rabbi Schiff offers educational support and comfort to those in the Jewish communities in the United States, in Israel, and indeed throughout the world.

I have long been aware of Rabbi Schiff's commitment and contributions to academia, to the Jewish community, and to the social welfare of all residents of south Florida.

The spirit of optimism and determination that Rabbi Schiff possesses can be seen in this week's Torah por-

tion. After returning from the Land of Israel, Caleb reports to the Jewish people that "we should surely go up, and inherit the land; for we are certainly able."

Rabbi Schiff's hard work on behalf of the Jewish community has been tireless and always with contagious optimism. No task is too large and no cause is without merit.

But his greatest achievement is his family, including his lovely wife, Shirley, and his three adult sons: Elliott, his wife, Alisa, and their children, Michael and Brooke; Jeffrey, his wife, Risa, and their children, Chananya, Moshe and Noah; and Steven, his wife, Jacqueline, and their children, Jennifer and Jeremy.

The opening prayer Rabbi Schiff presented today reflects his intellectual fiber, as well as his determination to improve our community and our country.

I thank Rabbi Schiff for his invocation and look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROVIDING STATUTORY PAYGO RULES

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, no one was more passionate about the dangers of an exploding national debt than my late husband, Senator Paul Tsongas,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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who made it a central focus of his 1992 campaign for President.

During the years of the Clinton administration, fiscal responsibility prevailed and the debt clock started to roll back. But we have seen a stark reversal of that success, with spending on two wars, tax cuts for the wealthy and a massive new entitlement program, none of it paid for.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I was proud to cosponsor legislation this week that would re-institute statutory pay-as-you-go rules. PAYGO is not an untested theory, but a commonsense tool with a proven track record that requires us in Washington to make tough choices. Throughout the 1990s, it paved the way for balanced budgets and responsible government, and it can do it again.

As we tackle two of the most important issues of our time, energy and health care reform, it is critical that we enact PAYGO rules that signal to our creditors that we are finally serious. We have a responsibility to pay for what we do.

EXPAND CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY IN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Democrats tell the American people that only government can save America's health care system. I am not sure what gives them assurances that big government is uniquely qualified to raise the level of health care in this Nation, or any nation for that matter.

Nevertheless, Republicans are not giving up on the American people's right and ability to decide for themselves what level of quality they desire. We believe in a commonsense set of health care reforms that ensures accessibility, protects the doctor-patient relationship, and promotes healthy lifestyles.

The American people do not need big government. They need more freedom and opportunity to make the choices that will promote their health and well-being. Our set of reforms will expand that freedom to Americans who have not had affordable health care, while preserving the quality of health care millions of Americans currently enjoy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, reforming Medicare payment formulas that pay for quality and value is one of the changes that must be part of any discussion on health care reform.

The Congressional Budget Office recognizes the problem with Medicare

paying physicians on a simple fee-for-service schedule, regardless of the quality of care they provide. This means that we pay doctors for doing more tests and more treatments, instead of paying for the right tests and right treatments.

In my home district, the Mayo Clinic is a model practice of providing high-quality care at low prices. But because of the way Medicare payments are figured today, the Mayo Clinic and others like them are penalized.

If we are to truly reform our health care system, we must reward those that save money and, at the same time, provide the highest quality care. This can be done by creating a value index within the formula in computing Medicare physician fees.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES HISTORIC TEXAS DEALERSHIPS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when government, without the consent of the people, takes control over independent businesses, it is an oppressive regime. The unelected, unaccountable auto task force gang continues to pick winners and losers in car dealership closings. And they aren't telling why they are closing some dealers and not others. They don't have to. They are the government.

In Houston, Todd and Bob Archer of Archer Chrysler have been ordered by these Supremes to close all three of their Chrysler dealerships. Archer has been in business for over 50 years. This historic motor company has a payroll of \$9 million a year and pays annual taxes of \$6 million a year.

Now, how does shutting down this business help anyone? Certainly not the 250 workers who now join the over 150,000 summarily fired by the administration. These profitable dealerships are not the reason Chrysler of Detroit is a failed state.

These auto task force bureaucrats need to be given the pink slip. This country is great for two reasons: Personal liberty and economic liberty. We did not become great because of government control over our lives and our businesses. Yet the oppression continues.

And that's just the way it is.

SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of full funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, or SCAAP. I am pleased that the House has rejected calls to eliminate this program. I hope the Senate will do the same because in

these difficult economic times it is more important than ever for the Federal Government, not local taxpayers, to pay when illegal immigrants are detained.

Last year, the five counties I represent in New York's Hudson Valley received more than \$1.2 million in Federal reimbursement for costs associated with detaining undocumented aliens, funding that is essential for local law enforcement to keep our communities safe.

SCAAP requires the Federal Government to step up to its responsibilities and foot the bill for its failure to enforce our immigration laws. We must continue to support this vital public safety and taxpayer protection program.

WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO PROTEST

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, recently elections were held in Iran with the Iranian Government declaring Ahmadinejad the landslide winner over pro-reform challenger Mr. Mousavi.

Mousavi is claiming the results of these elections should be voided because of fraud and other irregularities as people went to vote. He is calling upon his supporters to remain vocal and protest the results of this election, and they are turning out in the tens of thousands, but many have been killed. In response, President Ahmadinejad has tried to minimize anyone with an opposing viewpoint, physically threatening any form of dissent and shutting out the media and communications.

The accusations of voter irregularities must be investigated, a fact supported by Vice President BIDEN. But until this election is certified, the people of Iran should be supported in their pursuit of peaceful protests, if they so choose. Also, dissidents should be allowed to protest without violence against them.

More importantly, I call upon our President to not be timid, but to speak out firmly on this subject. Either it is a democracy with a legitimate government, or it is a tyrannical dictatorship.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM NEEDED

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need for health care reform. Comprehensive health care reform is about addressing what I call the three C's: care, cost and continuity.

Americans deserve affordable, high-quality and portable care. Some of our parents may have worked one job and had the same insurance plan for 40